

THE
LAWFULNES
OF
TITHES,

Demonstrated to the Convincing of
such of the *QUAKERS* as pre-
tend Conscience against the Pay-
ment of them:

OR,

A Demonstration for LIBERTY of CONSCIENCE
to the *QUAKERS* in the Payment of their

TITHES.

By W. J.

William Jefferys

*It is a Shame to the Man that doth sooth that which is Holy, and after
Kome to make Enquiry, Prov. 20. 25.*

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L O N D O N,

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Brittain. 1676.

BIBLIOTHECA
LAMBERTIANA

THE
LAW
OF
THE

Domestic to the Government of
the State of New York
and the County of New York

A Bill
to amend the Law
of the State of New York
and the County of New York



Printed by J. J. Van Nostrand, near the George Inn in New York
1870



THE
P R E F A C E
TO THE COURTEOUS
R E A D E R.

Reader,



Et me find thee such as I
bespeak thee, Courteous.
Be not offended with this
little Treatise at the first
sight of it, being so small
upon such a Subject of concern; and
of the which some Learned Men have
writ already. It is small, because it
is design'd for the use of those that are

*

wont

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wont to read but small Books, (*viz.*) the meaner sort of *Quakers*. It treats upon this Subject, not that I think to doe any great feats by it, but that it may mind those that are Learned indeed to undertake this, and such other things (wherein the *Quakers* do disturb the Church) proving not only the Lawfulness of Tithes, *viz.* that they may be paid, (which I do) but also the necessity of them, that they ought to be paid, or at leastwise the Expediency of them, that they are best to be paid. The aime of such Learned Men as have writ of this Subject already, was not the Satisfaction of these *Quakers* (of whom they did not so much as dream) but the Confirmation of Princes and Rulers, to continue in the Land,
and

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and Nation such Gospel - Maintenance ; as was of so long standing, and had been so well begun : Now these *Quakers* being to be satisfied (if any thing will do it) require this Subject to be managed another way , if not for matter, yet for manner, method, and stile, which I leave to the Discretion of such of the Learned, as shall have the Charity to travail with these poor Men (with the will of God) to reduce, and bring them back to the Establishment, and Peace of the Church.

As *St. Paul* did acknowledge himself to be Debtor to the *Greeks*, and to the *Barbarians*, to the Wise , and to the Unwise : So I think (under Correction) that the Learned in the Universities and else-where, are Debtors in

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these dayes unto all the Sects that are among us, viz. to endeavour to reclaim them: Among the which Sects, these of the *Quakers* (if it may rightly be called a Sect) and not rather a Rage, and a Tumult someing out their own shame: I say, this such as it is, is not to be let go *in malam rem*, as desperate as it seems to be

Again, as *St. Paul* professeth that he was ready to preach the Gospel to them which were at *Rome* also; so I hope our Learned men will not disdain to take pains with these *Quakers*, though they be gone from us as far as *Rome*.

The Gain-saying of Tith, and crying out Hireling, is the main thing they cant withal; therein applying themselves to the humor of such as are prophainly Covetous amongst us.

The

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The more unlearned this Sect of Quaking is, the greater learning it requires for the Confuting of it; they being not to be wrought upon otherwise than by Demonstrations; which I presume, Learning, Leasure, and Libraries may be able to make out unto them, by shewing them, as a Perpetuity of a Ministry, and a Maintenance to it: So also a propriety both of the one, and of the other; and this to be deduced through the whole Series of times, and ages; the universalities of People and Nations; and the variety of Empires, and Governments.

This little Tract was devis'd by me for the satisfaction of a private Man, my Neighbour: Why I have made it publique, I have given an account already; namely, to mind such as are
Learned,

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Learned, and have leasure from Weekly Sermons to travail, as they do with the other Sects that are among us ; so also with those poor Men called *Quakers*: I say, to mind them; for it's possible they hear not the clamours and out-cries of these Men, as poor Incumbents do. How good a Work the turning men from the Errour of their ways may be, appears by the great Good St. *James* pronounces to come of it. Reader, recommend this good Work to whom thou think'st it proper. Be Friendly, and Farewel.

The

COUNTRYMEN and FRIENDS

CALL'D

QUAKERS.

§. 1. **T**O your Question demanding by what Right *Tythes* become due in the Church of *England*?

I answer, that it is by the Law of the Land; which being not contrary to the Law of God, ought to be obey'd by every Subject. Now this Law of our Land is not only according to the Law of God, but also fitted to it, and devised by it.

That there was a Law for *Tythes* under the Old Testament, there is no Man doubts.

* That that Law is still abiding, viz. for the Substance and Equity of it, under the Gospel, That is it which some Men would willingly be ignorant of. But I prove it thus:

* *Lex vetus de Sabbato, &c.* The Law concerning the Sabbath, and the other concerning *Tythes* (in the Old Testament) do shew that Christians are oblig'd to set apart no less than the seventh day for God's Worship and Service; nor less than the tenth part of their fruits or increase, for the maintenance of those that are Christs Ministers. *Grot. de Jure Bell. & Pac. lib. 1. cap. 1.*

What was in being both for Right and Practice before the Law was given by *Moses*, and in that Law was exprest, and set forth, and hath not been forbidden since, nor any way abrogated; that is abiding still: But such is the Law for *Tythes*, therefore it is still abiding.

A

That

That it was in being before the Law was given by *Moses*, appears by *Abraham* paying *Tythes* to *Melchisedek*, Gen.

Irenæus (l. 4. c. xxxiv.) and *Chrysost.* on 1. *Cor.* cap. xvi. use this Law, in proving the Equity of Tyth under the Gospel, Δεσφάτωκε δ' Ἀβραῶν, He Tythed *Abraham*, (i. e.) he took Tyth upon him, viz. of his Goods; which implyes, that the one was in Duty bound to pay it, and the other had a Right to demand and take it. The Text saith, *Melchisedek* met *Abraham*: Wherefore? to beg an Alms of him? No, but to receive his Due from him. O how fain would prophane Misers have the Clergy brought unto their Alms! on purpose, that they might deal by them, as *Judas* would have done by our Saviour Christ. See *Calvin's* complaint in this case. *Abraham* did not this by any politick Constitution, nor by any Right of Ceremony: Therefore it was by the Law of Nature that he did it.

14. 20. *Heb.* 7. 11. ὅτι καὶ δεξίτω ἀπὸ πάντων ἐκείνων Ἀβραῶν. The Text hath not [ἴδων] but [ἐκείνων] It saith not that *Abraham* brought to *Melchisedek* somewhat in Gift, but that he gave him that part and portion which was due unto him. If he had been free either to give, or not to give, then in giving, he would have given what he had pleas'd, and not have been bound to divide. A

Division is of one whole thing into parts, which needeth not, but when some part is due out of it.

Moreover, if *Melchisedek* had no other Right to what he received from *Abraham*, but only of *Abraham's* Bounty, and good will, then how doth *St. Paul* prefer his Priest-hood before that of the Sons of *Levi*? For they had a Right, and a Law to receive what they did from the People, ἐκ τῶν δέχων, &c.

Again, If he had no Right or Authority to receive any thing from *Abraham*, then was not he greater than *Abraham*: For I may humble my self to give what I please, to whom I please, but I am inferiour only where I am subject, and bound to pay.

But you'll say, by what Right did *Melchisedek* receive *Tith*, or for what? For Sacrificing? No, (we do not Read that he did any such thing) but for Blessing: *Melchisedek* blessed *Abraham*, and *Abraham* pay'd the Tenth, &c. Here-

Hereupon I assume thus: *Tyths* were due unto *Melchisedek*, not for Sacrificing, but for Blessing only: Therefore *Tyths* do remain due under the Gospel upon the same account. The consequence I prove, *Heb. 7. 12.* The Law concerning Priesthood is not changed, except the Priesthood be changed also: But the Priesthood of Christ, and that of *Melchisedek* is the same, therefore the same Law remaineth under both.

You'll object again; What was *Abraham* but a single Person? What he did, he did for himself, and what is that to Us?

Not so: *Abraham* was the Father of the Faithful, and thereupon, saith *Chrysostome*, he paying Tyth to *Melchisedek*, did shadow or represent all the Faithful under the Gospel, paying Tith to Christ.

From *Abraham* I might go to *Jacob*, and take him vowing a Vow, the subject whereof was, that if the Lord would be with him, &c. then should the Lord be his God: The stone which he set for a Pillar should be God's House; and of all that God should give him, he would give the Tenth unto God. If *Jacob* had not very well known this Vow of his to be grounded upon good Right on God's part, and Duty on his own; he would never have made it.

Is not the same Right on God's part still, and the same Duty on ours? Is it not God that gives us all that we have, and ought not we to acknowledg him as *Jacob* did?

Est enim hoc conscientia nostra vulgare & commune Testimonium, &c. It is a common Testimony of our Conscience known even to the Heathens, that the Necessaries of this life are to be beg'd of God: From whence it is, that even amongst the Gentile. Tyths of all things were vow'd unto *Hercules. Lambert. Danaus de Oracione Dominica. pa. 154.*

To acknowledge God in this case, is not a Will-worship of ours, but a Doctrine taught by the Holy Ghost, *Prov. 3. 9.*

Honour God with thy substance, and with the first Fruits of all thine Increase. Though *Solomon* was not in being when *Jacob* was, yet the Holy Ghost was; and if he had not been *Jacob's* Teacher in the making of this Vow, this Vow should not have been Recorded in the Scriptures to the Commendation of him as it is:

* Saith *Sr. Aug.* *Quid enim si diceret Deus, &c.* What if God should say, Thou art mine, O man, the ground which thou tillest is mine; the Seeds which thou sowest, the Beasts which thou wearest are mine; the Rain is mine, and so is the Heat of the Sun: Seeing all these things are mine, thou which only lendest thy Hand to the Work, deservest hardly the Tenth: But I keep Nine parts for thee, give me the Tenth, &c.

Yea, what hindreth me to say, that it is written not only for his Commendation, but also for our Imitation, there being all the * Equity

that may be, that we should do as he hath done?

Nay, This Lesson is still taught by the Holy Ghost, *Gal. 6.6.* *Let him that is taught in the word, communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.* Here is an express command of paying things in Kind under the Gospel. Indeed the word [Tith] or [Tenth] is not here set down; perhaps because that part or portion is suppos'd to be notoriously known. As it is not for Christians to strive about words, *1 Tim. 6.4.* so I think it is not for them to strive for want of Words, where the things themselves that are in Question are to be found in the Scriptures. To strive for want of Words, what is it but to dote about Questions? Those that oppose Tyths for want of having them nam'd in the New Testament, seem in this to be like those that oppos'd the Consubstantiality of the Persons in the Deity, because the Word [ὁμοσιος] is not to be found in the Scripture: And yet the Word [Tything] is to be found in the New Testament, viz. spoken by our Saviour Christ himself, and that asserting the Right of Tythes, saying, that they ought to be pay'd. If you say they ought to be pay'd then, but not now, I ask where it is that our Saviour hath told you so, or what cause is there that it should be so?

Our

Our Saviour declar'd unto the *Jews* that he was Lord even of the Sabbath, *i. e.* that he had Power given him, to set his People free from the Necessity of observing the Sabbath; or at leastwise to moderate them in the Observation of it: But of Tyth he said no such thing. It was prophes'd, that the Jewish Sabbath should cease to be; but of Tythes there is no such Prophecy. The continuance of that Sabbath might not consist with Christ exhibited, but Tythes may, being no way contrary to the Liberty, wherewith Christ hath made us free. If you pay not the tenth, you will pay some other part, *viz.* either more or less: More we do not challenge, Less you cannot pay, except you will not only alter God's Proportion, but also have less regard to the just Maintenance of your Ministers under the New Testament, than the People of God had of theirs under the Old. As if these were not as worthy to live of the Gospel, as those others were to live of the Altar.

Thus I have done with the first Member of my Argument, in the sifting whereof I desire such Candour of you, as may bespeak you not only Civil, but also Christians.

Now of the second Member, *viz.* That it was exprest, and set forth in the Law given by *Moses*: And this I prove from *Lev. 27. 30. Num. 18. 8. and 31. 2 Chron. 31. 4.* My Inference here-
 lience is this: *Moses*, *Num. 18. 8.* makes the Faculty of receiving Tyth to

The Heathens judg'd it reasonable, that those which serv'd at their Idol-Altars, should live thereof: The proportion of Tyth or Tenth they might borrow from the Patriarchs the Sons of *Noah*, spreading it among the Nations.

The *Melchisedek* spoken of in *Genesis*, and in the Epistle to the *Hebrews* is most probably thought to be *Sem*, the eldest Son of *Noah*, who liv'd in the Dayes of *Abraham*, and by his Primogeniture had Right to take Tyths even of him.

Hoc jure Abraham, &c. By this Law (*viz.* of Nature) *Abraham* gave the tenth to God of those spoils which he belong

took from the five Kings mentioned in *Gen. 14. &c.* Quo more Graci quoque, &c. And by the same Law also, the *Gracians, Carthaginians, and Romans*, dedicated the Tenth of their spoils to *Apollo, Hercules, Jupiter Feretrius, &c.* *Grot. de jur. belli & Pacis lib. 3. cap. 6.*

belong unto the Priest-hood or Ministry by reason of the Annoyning, *i. e.* their Calling. In the 31. *verse*, he makes it to belong unto them, because of their Work or Service: But both the Calling and Work of the Ministry do still abide: Therefore also the Faculty of receiving Tyths, which is the Main-

tenance of the one, and the Reward of the other. The Minor I prove, *Eph. 4. 11, 13. Heb. 13. 17. 1 Tim. 4. 17.*

Hezekiah, 2 Chron. 31. 4. Commanded the People that dwelt at Jerusalem, to

As Hezekiah was singularly commended among the Kings of Judah: So did the singularity of his Commendation consist in this, viz. that he was most zealous for Religion and Piety, 2 Chron. 29.

give their Portions to the Priests, & to the Levites, that they might

be Encouraged in the Law of the Lord. From whence I Argue thus:

What was well done of *Hezekiah* by the Ministers of the Law, that is well done still

Upon this account it is, that he is said to do according to all that his Father *David* did: Upon which account also, *viz.* of Religion and Piety most of all it is, that *David* himself was said to be a Man after God's own heart.

of godly Princes by the Ministers of the Gospel; But it was well done of *Hezekiah* to encourage the Ministers of the Law, by command-

ing the People to give them their Portions; therefore it is well done still of godly Princes, to encourage the Ministers of the Gospel, by commanding the People to pay them their Dues.

Neither *Hezekiah, Nebemiah*, nor any other godly Prince or Ruler, hath thought fit at any

Nebemiah was zealous in this matter, even unto Contention, *Nebem. 13. 10, 11, 12.*

time, to require the Priests to attend their Service, without commanding unto them their just Maintenance. Yea, God looks

looks not with any Man to serve any Office in his House for Nought, *Mal. 1. 10.* Neither will God accept of any Man to pretend to the doing of his Work, that shall disdain to receive his Wages. I am a great King, saith the *Lord of Hosts*, *Mal. 1. 13.* As he disdains to be meanly dealt with by his People, that pretend unto him, so is it not his manner to deal meanly by his Priests that serve him; as you may see throughout that whole Chapter.

Yea, our blessed Saviour in his Gospel, saith, at the sending of the seventy Disciples, That *the Labourer is worthy of his Hire*: And will any man that is a Christian, call him that laboureth, an Hireling for receiving his Hire? If any man do, is not that man's Eye evil, because our blessed Saviour is good? *St. Paul 1 Cor. 9.* affirms, that for people to expect that their Ministers should attend, and serve them for nothing, is a thing so unjust, and unreasonable, that it is hardly to be imagined. It were such another thing as it would be, to make the Oxe tread out the Corn, and yet to muzzle his Mouth the while.

Nevertheless, I do not deny, but that a man may, and ought upon occasions, serve in the Ministry between God and the People, without challenging any Portion or set Maintenance at all: But then at the same time, and notwithstanding those occasions, he ought to be so far from either disdaining that Maintenance to himself, or hindring of it unto others, that he ought to maintain and justify the Right and Power of it, not only unto others that do receive it, but also to himself, though

St. Paul thinks fit to cite this Text of our Saviour, together with such another from *Moses*, to prove both Honour and Maintenance to be due to the Gospel-Ministry, *1 Tim. 5. vers. 17, 18.*

An unreasonableness hardly to be imagined, much less to be practised among the *Gentiles*, except it were by such as were accounted Tyrannous, and so accounted most of all for this, *viz.* That they were both envious, and peevish to the Gods.

though he receive it not. This was *St. Paul's* practice, 1 *Cor.* 9. 4, 5. Though he wrought with his Hands, rather than he would be chargeable to the *Corinthians*, because of false Apostles, that perverted them to his prejudice, yet did he justify unto them, that he had power to forbear working as well as others the Apostles and Ministers of Christ were wont to do.

What *St. Paul* did in this matter, he did out of Zeal to further the Gospel, and not out of Envy to hinder any man's just Right or Title, and least of all that of the Ministers of Christ unto their own: Yea, lest any one should construe him in such a sence, he shews himself earnest in their Defence.

μή ἐκ ἐχθρῶν ἡμεῶν
Have we not power,
viz. that power which
is of Right?

There are divers poor Incumbents in these dayes, that endeavour to imitate *St. Paul* in this, as far as their occasions may permit, receiving less, and paying more than the Due, nevertheless are quiet and silent in favour of the Gospel. And yet they are not Apostles as *St. Paul* was, at liberty to go far and near; but confin'd to certain Parishes and Places, and therefore not in a capacity, like *St. Paul*, to take of one Church wherewithal to serve another, 2 *Cor.* 11. 8, 9. They must either receive in some measure their Dues from their own Parishes, or else they can challenge none at all; to say nothing of the many Duties they pay out of what they do receive, to one, and to another.

I have insisted the longer upon this Instance drawn out of the Words of *Moses* and *Hezekiah*, on purpose to take you off from thinking the worse of Tyth-paying, for its being exprest, and set forth in the Law of *Moses*. Every thing that is written there, is not Ceremonial, in such manner as to vanish quite at our Saviour's coming in the Flesh, and to abide no longer. The

Law

Law given by *Moses* was threefold, Moral, Judicial, and Ceremonial. One and the same thing may in divers respects, partake of these three Laws. I will take the Subject in hand for instance, *viz.* Tyth-paying. As it is a Maintenance to the Priest-hood, or Ministry, so it is Moral, in as much force now as ever: As it was appropriated unto the Tribe of *Levi*, so it was Ceremonial, and in that respect it is abolish't: The Tribe of *Levi* have no more to do with it now than other men have.

In the third of *Malachy*, the Observation of this Commandment of Tyth-paying, is establish't with a solemn Blessing, and the Violation of it threatned with a severe Curse. If it had been a meer Ceremony (such as some men would have it to be) the Prophet would not have busied himself much about it. Where do you find the Prophets so greatly to concern themselves in Ceremonies, as either to bless, or curse in their behalf?

And that you make not light of this Argument; the Fathers in the Council of *Tibur* (saith Bishop *Andrews*) us'd for Tyth-paying no other Argument, or Reason but this. Tythes (say they) are to be pay'd, that God being appeased, may the more plenteously bestow things necessary upon us. The Fathers also at the Council of *Mentz*, did use the same Reason. Tythes, say they, are to be pay'd, lest God withdraw things necessary from us. In saying thus, they did not then determine the Right of Tythes, which was determined long before, but they perswaded men in paying of Tythes to deal justly and truly, devoutly also, and conscionably. Saith *St. Aug.* Our Ancestors abounded with great Plenty, because they

No Sabbath without an Assembly; no Assembly without a Ministry, no soled Ministry without a Maintenance, *Lev. 23.3. Mal. 1.10. 1 Cor. 9.*

Patres in Concilio Tiburicensi, cap. 13.

Patres in Concilio Moguntino, cap. 11.

Aug. libro Hom. 48. Majores nostri, &c.

pay'd Tyth devoutly and truly. Our [Ancestors] saith he; which implies, that Tyth-paying was of common use long before St. *Augustin's* Dayes.

Thus I have done with the second Member of my Argument, *viz.* that Tyth-paying was expressly commanded in the Law of *Moses*.

Now of the third Member, *viz.* that it hath not been forbidden since, nor any way abrogated, or done away. Which I prove thus:

Whatsoever is made void at the coming of Christ in the Flesh, either falls void of it self, or else was declar'd void either by Christ, or his Apostles: But Tyth-paying neither fell void of it self, nor was declar'd void either by Christ or his Apostles; therefore it was not made void at all. The Minor Proposition, or that Tyth-paying fell not away upon either of the fore-mentioned accounts, I prove by Parts; and first, that it fell not away of it self.

What may consist with Christ already given and exhibited, that falls not away of it self; but Tyth-paying may consist with Christ already given and exhibited; therefore it falls not away of it self. The Minor I prove:

What is neither Sacrament nor Sacrifice of the Law, that may consist with Christ already given and exhibited: But Tyth-paying is neither Sacrament nor Sacrifice of the Law; therefore it may consist with Christ already given and exhibited. Or thus: Only such things may not consist with Christ given and exhibited, as made up the Partition-Wall, that was between God and Man first, and then between Men and Men, *i. e.* between the *Jews* and *Gentiles*: But Tyth-paying was no part of that Partition-Wall: It parted not between God and Man, for it was God himself that did appoint it; it parted not between the *Jews* and *Gentiles*, because both did pay Tyth to their Priests.

Tyth

Tyth was pay'd generally in the world, before any Partition between Jew and Gentile

was in being; as you may see, if you consult *Pliny* in his natural History, *Isocrates*, *Theophrastus*, and others. Saith *Alstedius* of things abrogated by the Death of Christ;

That common saying must be of credit, viz. That the blood of Christ once shed, forbids any more blood to be shed in Sacrifice: Now in Tyth-paying there is no blood, except it be the Heart-blood of the prophanely covetous, which makes them even Mad to the Robbing of God.

Neither is Tyth-paying a Sacrifice in any other sence, saying that it is Eucharistical, (*i.e.*) it is a Sacrifice of Praise, and Thanksgiving. He that will not acknowledge God in all his ways, to the intent that he may direct his Paths; nor honour God with his substance, with a Dependance upon him, let him pay no Tythes, *Prov. 3. vers. 5, 6: 9, 10.*

How Witty are some prophane Ones now a dayes (some Poor, and others Rich) to upbraid the most Laborious of Christ's Ministers, the one with their Labour, and the other with their Estates! (A Reproach most grievous unto ingenuous Men, such as the Ministers of Christ ought to be.) Holy *Jacob* was far from this; what he gave unto God, he called not his Labour, much less his Estate; but God's Gift. He saith not unto

Plin. lib. 12. cap. 14. 19. Nat. Hist. Theophrast. lib. 9. cap. 4. de Plantis. Isocrates in commending the Wisdom and Piety of *Bufris*, the first King of *Egypt*, doth instance in this as a main evidence thereof, viz. that he fixt a sure and large Revenue upon the Priests, exempting them from Wars, and other Incumbrances; thinking he could not do too much for those that served in Holy things. Τοῖς δὲ ἱερεῶσι μισθὸν δάσκειν ἐπέμελλεν, &c. *Isocratis de Bufride Orat.*

What is spent upon Divine worship, is by a wise Man thought Gain.
Plaut. de Milite.

As the Heathens did phansie to themselves a variety of Gods, and every God an Author of some earthly benefit unto them; so did they honour every such God with a special part of that benefit whereof they supposed him to be the Author: As *Lyans* with the Fruit of the Vine; *Ceres* with the Fruits of the Earth; *Mi-*

verba with Oyl, &c. *Mat.*
mor. lib. 8. Fab. 5.

God, of all that I shall labour for, or
 of all that I shall get; but of all that
 thou shalt give me, I will give the

Tenth unto thee.

Thus, I think, I have prov'd, that Tyth-paying falls not of
 it self, at the Death of Christ, because it may consist with it;
 yea, it is a real Thanksgiving unto God, for the grace and bene-
 fit of it.

Now it is my part to prove, that Christ did not declare it
 void in his Life time, *i. e.* while he was upon Earth. He's so
 far from that, that he enjoyn'd the Practice of it, *Mat. 23. 23.*
 and *Luk. 11.* from the *37. verse* to the *43.* He omitteth the
 washing of his Hands before Dinner, though it were to the
 Offence of the *Pharisee* that invited him to his House. He's so
 far from saying, that that ought not to be left undone, that he
 defends the Omission of it; as he did also in another place, the
 rubbing of the Ears of Corn by his Disciples on the Sabbath-
 day: So little regard had he for either humane Traditions, or
 needless Ceremonies. But of Tyth-paying even to the smallest
 things, he sayeth, these things ye ought not to leave un-
 done.

It is much to be considered, that when our blessed Saviour
 had speech of the greatest and weightiest things of all, Faith,
 Judgment, and Mercy, that at the same time, and as it were
 in the same Paragraph, where he saith, that the one ought
 to be done, he saith also, that the other ought not to be left un-
 done.

How you may understand this speech of our Saviour, I know
 not; but Bishop *Andrews* saith, that the Primitive Church did
 generally understand it to be spoken in Confirmation of Tyth-
 paying: To the Proof of which, he quotes St. *Chrysostome* speak-
 ing for the *Greek Church*, and St. *Augustin* for the *Latine*. The
 speech indeed was design'd first, and principally for Faith,
 Judge-

Judgment, and Mercy; but then it was accessorially and additionally for justness and exactness in paying of Tyths. If he had not meant that Tythes should be pay'd, he would either have oppos'd them, as he did many Traditions and Ceremonies; or else at the least he would have said nothing of them, thereby to suffer them to fall of themselves.

Now remains only the third part of the Proposition to be prov'd, *viz.* That Tyth-paying was not declar'd void by the Apostles.

If the Apostles declar'd Tyth-paying null and void, then that Declaration of their's is to be found either in their Acts written of them, or in their Epistles written by them. But it is to be found neither in the one, nor in the other: Therefore not at all.

The Minor proposition I leave to be disprov'd by you, *viz.* By shewing where such Declaration of the Apostles is to be found. They do declare against Circumcision, Sacrificing, the Priesthood of *Levi*, making a Difference in Meats and Drinks, and Dayes, &c. These were shadows of things to come; whereas Tyth was nothing else but a Political Maintenance assign'd of God, to the use of those that did serve at the Altar.

If you say that as the Altar is now down, so must the Maintenance go down with it. I answer, that as the Gospel is up in the room of the Altar, so must the Maintenance stand up with it, though not in such things as were but Occasional, and did belong unto Sacrificing; yet in such things as are Fundamental, and do relate unto Blessing. Though *Levi's* Sacrificing be past and gone, yet *Melchisedek's* Blessing is still in being.

If you allow that those which preach the Gospel, should live of the Gospel, and yet deny Tyth-paying; can you shew any other way that

In Tyth men pay not according to what they have not,
may

but according to what they have, which is the greatest Equity that can be : there the Rich is not spared, nor the Poor oppress'd.

The benefit, viz. without a blessing, which might be made of the ceasing of Tyth-paying, whose should it be ? the Landlords or the Tenants ! I will not determine, because I think the thing it self in this Nation is hardly to be suppos'd, and that upon many and several accounts, though the Clergy only are upbraided by the Envious and Prophane ; and among the Clergy, those that labour most in the Word and Doctrine.

Render to all their Dues ; Tribute to whom Tribute, custom to whom, &c. *Rom. 13.*

As Incumbent Ministers are confin'd to a certain Place, so are they also confin'd to their Calling. It is not free for them to shift themselves out of it, as others may do out of theirs. They are barr'd from having Trades, as *St. Paul* had, yea, from using of Merchandise, or any other means of Lively-hood, being confin'd to this onething. And would you pretending to be Tender Christians (for a man cannot be a great Christian, but that he must be tender too) would you, I say, that Princes and Rulers that are Christians, should be so unreasonable as to confine men, free born, freely educated, and brought up with much cost and expence to a certain Calling (which is for the good of all men) and not provide that they may live thereof, as may become that calling ?

But you will not have Princes and Magistrates to appoint unto you in this matter ; you will be free in the things of God, viz. to Rob him if you please : As if it were not the chiefest concern

There are many things lawful not only to be done by Christians, but also to be

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his concern of Princes, to provide and see, that God be not rob'd either of the truth of his Service, or of the just Maintenance that belongs thereunto. Shall some few private men perswade them, that a blessing can rest long upon this Nation without a Ministry; or that to Oppress and Beggar the Ministry, be the way to continue the Blessing which this Land has so long enjoy'd? I think, they will not incur that Sentence against themselves, *viz.* That those which despise him *shall be lightly esteemed*, 1 Sam. 2.30. Shall God himself appoint unto you in his own things? Or hath he not done it already? If that which we contend for be not of his appointment, shew any thing else that he hath appointed in the place of it. Tyth to be once his appointment you acknowledge; shew where, and how he hath quitted that Right of his, and what he hath taken in exchange of it, (*i. e.*) what he hath ordain'd to succeed Tyth in the Maintenance of the Ministry?

Either Tythes are God's Right of propriety still, or else he hath taken something else in exchange of them, or else he hath no propriety at all, and consequently, he hath nothing now wherein he may be rob'd; And if there be nothing wherein God may be rob'd, then is there no such sin as Sacrilege. Oh how fain would prophane Misers that Sacrilege should be no sin! Whereas *St. Paul* makes it to be as great a sin, if not greater, than Idolatry, *Rom.* 2.22. There is no sin that blasphemeth the Name of God more than this.

commanded them by their Superiors, that have less Authority from the Scriptures than Tythes may have. From some mens impertinent requiring of Scripture for every humane Ordinance, Doctor *Sanderson* observes that the misunderstanding of the Doctrine of the perfection of the Scriptures, occasions much of Errour relating unto things indifferent, specially in things of Prudence and Policy. As if Magistrates might not ordain in these things, but what they can shew Scripture for: whereas it is enough that they ordain nothing against the Scripture.

Saith Doctor *Williams*; God hath commanded the Tenth of all the increase of Goods to be pay'd out, thereby to shew that he reserves a Chiefery of every thing unto himself.

Of the sufferings of the Saints, p. 29.

If

If God had now under the Gospel no propriety wherein he might be rob'd; why doth St. Paul, *Gal. 6.* (where he biddeth those that are taught in the word, communicate unto those that teach them in all good things) give warning in the next Verse, that they should not deceive themselves, as if God might be mock't? Now if in point of Right and Propriety, God were not concern'd in what Christian people do communicate unto their Ministers, how might he be mock't therein? For God to be mock't, and to be rob'd, I think is one and the same thing.

If you acknowledge that God hath a Right of Propriety in any part or portion of his Blessings unto you; you must needs allow, grant, that his Ministers have a Right to use that part, or portion of his (viz.) of his Gift, and Assignment. I have prov'd this already, *Num. 18.* at the eight and thirtieth Verse.

§. 2d. I have prov'd that Tyth falls not of it self, as being inconsistent with the Death of Christ: It is not in that respect either weak or unprofitable that it should be abrogated. I have prov'd also, that our blessed Saviour has not declar'd against it, but for it. The like I have prov'd by the Apostles; saving that they have not us'd the Word [Tyth] or [Tenth] in this matter. To this you'll add, that they receiv'd not Tythes themselves. And in this you triumph against us, as if we were contrary to the Apostles.

That none of the Apostles at any time, or in any place, receiv'd any manner of Tyth, I think is more than you can prove. Certain it is, that they did receive, and that both in a plentiful measure, and in an Honourable manner too. Of their Receipts, they were not only able to maintain themselves

Quod debebat Abraham Deo, &c.
What Abraham ow'd to God, that he pay'd into the Hands of Melchisedek. Calvin on the Epist. to the Hebr. cap. 7. vers. 4.

Heb. 7. 18.

but also to succour others. They commanded Collections to be made over whole Regions, and Countries, and directed them to be sent to all places, where the Exigency of the Brethren did require Relief. In short, they did as the occasion of their Apostleship did require; And the People did by them as the difficulties of those times did permit. The People did then pay their Tithes unto others, the *Jews* to the *Levites*, and the *Gentiles* to the Idol Priests.

1 Cor. 16. 1, 2, 3.

2 Cor. 9. 1, 2, 3.

What should the Apostles do in those days with Tithes, whenas they were not fixt to any certain Place, nor tyed to any certain Congregation of People? What should twelve men do with the Tith of the whole World? From *Jerusalem* unto *Rome*, St. Paul was not out of his Parish, but all along as he went among the Christians, he might command what he pleas'd. What could the Apostles then have more, than to have the People at their Service, and what they had at their dispose? The People sold their possessions, and laid the price of them at the Apostles Feet.

Gal. 4. 15.

Acts 4. 37.

The Apostles were so far from being Poor, that they were in a capacity to provide for the Poor. Yea, they were beyond the serving of Tables; they must have Officers under them for that, whilst they should attend a higher work, viz. Praying, and the Ministry of the Word, Acts 6. 4.

Will you have the Christian Church to be always in its Infancy? Will you have the World generally to be either *Jewish*, or *Heathen*, and but a few converted unto Christ? Will you have Kings and Princes to be Persecutors of the Christians, for being such? Will you have Idol-Priests to abound in every place, and will you have the People to be Idolaters? If so, then were there need that your Ministers should be Apostles, and you

your selves such Christians as those were, that laid the price of their Possessions at the Apostles feet. Or will you not rather give God thanks that the Church is spread throughout the World, that whole Nations are become professedly Christian, Kings and Queens are become Nursing-Fathers, and Nursing-Mothers; Idol Priests vanish't, and the People turn'd from Idols, to serve the living God? In this condition, the Church among us hath not need of Apostles, but ordinary Ministers; not of Apostles, to lay the Foundation, but of Ministers, to build thereon: Ministers orderly call'd, and ordinarily appointed, to succeed one the other in all the Parts and Divisions which are made throughout the Land; which Divisions, we call Parishes.

Now will any sober minded man deny a certain, known Maintenance to be due unto every man from the place where he is

bound to give his Attendance? Saith St. Paul to the Corinthians, *If others are partakers of this power over you, are not we much rather?* So say I; If

Impropiators and Farmers be partakers of this power of receiving Tythes from Parishes, are not we much rather? And yet we are only troubled by you, that labour among you, and

Why do you not rather suffer wrong? Why do you not rather suffer your selves to be defrauded?

are willing to live peaceably; so willing, that we suffer our selves not only to be defrauded, but also openly wrong'd and injur'd: and with these doings ye applaud your selves for Perfection, cry out

upon us for Persecution. But to the matter in hand, The Apostles expected not that the Church in all succeeding Ages should be supplied with Apostles as they were. Saith St. Paul of Christ after his Ascension,

He gave some Apostles, and some Prophets, and some Evangelists, and some Pastours and Teachers.

Though

Though Pastours and Teachers do succeed the Apostles in the Ministry, yet in a strict sense are they not Apostles as they were: and therefore in diverse Circumstances the same things are not to be expected from them: No new Gospel, no Revelation, no Miracles, and therefore neither must they expect from the People such things, as the Apostles did, (*viz.*) to have the People every where at their Service, and what things they have at their dispose. But as they are stinted in their Ministry, (*viz.*) to build on the Foundation which the Apostles have laid; so are they stinted also in their Maintenance, not to command what they please, but to receive what is appointed unto them, and that not every where, but only from the place where they are appointed to serve.

By that time the Ministry came to be in Pastours and Teachers, the Gospel was spread far and near, the World was generally become Christian, and the Christian Church had Peace and quietness in many Lands and Nations, Kingdoms, and States; then the Christians being thus spread and multiplied were glad also to encrease the number of their Teachers, dividing themselves into such parts and parcels, Parishes and Congregations, as that they might conveniently be served by them.

Parishes, and Decimations, or Tith-payments, were heretofore held to be Reciprocal, (*i. e.*) implying one another: And still we say not, the Tith of the Lordship or of the Mannor, but the Tith of the Parish: and yet Tith was paid long before Lands and Nations were divided into Parishes, yea, before they were divided into Bishopricks; nay, before the Church had

As the Apostles were extraordinarily called and enabled to their Ministry; so were they also extraordinarily provided the necessaries of life: Which extraordinaryies are ceas'd to the succeeding Ministers.

The like either of the one; or of the other is not to be expected again; except there should be a new Gospel to be Preacht, and new Miracles to be wrought.

perfect Peace or Quietness. And not only so, but Churches

Euseb. Eccl. Hist. lib. 9. cap. 8. Origen affirmeth, that the Commandment for Tyth-paying ought still to stand according to the Letter of It. In his 11. *Hom.* upon *Num.* 18. And *Clem. Alexandrinus* who liv'd very near the first Century, affirms the Tenth of the Fruits, and other Encrease to be due to the Priests. *Καὶ ὑπὸ καὶ αὐτῶν τῶν κληρικών, &c. Σωματ. λογ. β.*

also were endow'd by devout persons, Men and Women, even in the midst of Martyrdoms. This is storied to be done in the Emperour *Trajan's* days;

yea, before his dayes no man can tell how soon they began; they were always in doing, notwithstanding the greatest persecutions.

But before I can go on with my Argument, I must return to the Apostles again; between whom, and the succeeding Pastours and Teachers, I have shew'd to be a great difference; of which difference, those that are prophanely greedy, as envious to the calling of the Ministry, as they are Miserable to detain their Dues, will take notice: And yet they will have them to agree in this one thing, *viz.* That the present Pastors and Teachers have no more House and Home than some of the Apostles had. That we should have the like Liberty, Command, and Authority as they had, they would not wish by any means. That we have not these things as they had is, I think, a convincing Argument, that though it might be prov'd that they receiv'd not Tyths, yet it doth not thence follow, that we ought not to receive them.

If they receiv'd not Tyths in those early dayes of Christianity, yet others did: As the *Levites* among the *Jews*, and the *Idol-Priests* among the *Heathens*. As they did continue their Priest-hood, so did they also continue to receive their Tythes. Though they were void *de Jure*, yet *de Facto*, they were not, until they were declar'd, and made known to be so: And then saith *Musculus* a Protestant Writer, the Tyths were taken from them, and conser'd upon the Gospel-Ministers.

Postellus,

Posseffus, a very Learned Man, faith in his Book, wherein he treats of such things as the whole World is agreed on, that it is a Natural Principle, an inbred Notion to every man, that sets not himself to resist even the Light that is within him, to think it reasonable that out of the yearly Encrease that God gives him in his Goods and Substance, he should return a Portion of that as a Holy Tribute to the Maintenance of God's publique Worship and Service.

I am a great King, saith the Lord of Hosts, and my Name is dreadful among the Heathen, Mal. i. 14.

When was the time, or where was the place, that God's Sovereignty was not acknowledg'd, viz. by giving unto him the things that are his? You know that in the late Troubles, Tyths were pay'd without dispute. Ministers are not the only Men now a

dayes that are concern'd in Tyths; they have no Personal Inheritance in them; they neither descend unto them from their Ancestors, nor yet go down from them to their Posterity: They are to them only a Maintenance to their calling, and a Reward to their Service; and that in many places so slender an Allowance, by reason of Impropropriations,

and other Deductions, that while they live, they do but hardly subsist, and when they dye, they leave not wherewithal to pay a Mortuary. Nor do I see the generality of People to love them the more for being poor, nor the readier to pay them their Dues for being small;

but so much the bolder either to detain them from them, or
e.l.e.

Give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are Gods. Saith Mr Leigh, It is observable in this place, that the Article is twice repeated in the *Greek Text*, when our Saviour speaks of God, and but once when he speaks of Cæsar; shewing our special care should be, to give God his Due. *Annot. p. 50.*

Not only Poverty, but also the contempt, which by the ruder sort is usually cast upon it, should not be grievous unto a good Clergy-man, but that it doth disable him divers wayes, both Spiritually and Temporally rendring him the less profitable unto those, whose concern it is to submit themselves unto him, and to receive profit by him. *Heb. 13. 17.*

else to diminish them unto them : Though indeed those that are truly Religious, and consequently well-will'd to the calling, may have a Tenderness for them upon that account.

What was in the World of a known Right, and constant Practice, all along before the Law was given by *Moses* ; What was expressly commanded in that Law, and of which there has been no Prophecy that it should cease at any time ; What did no way typifie Christ to come in the flesh, and now that he is come, doth not derogate therefrom ; What hath not been declar'd voyd, either by Christ, or his Apostles ; What was no part of the Partition-Wall that was between *Jews* and *Gentiles* ; What ceased not with the Jewish-Church and Commonwealth, but continued in the Lands and Nations among whom the *Jews* were dispers'd : What the Primitive Christians did never disown as to the matter of Right, and for Practice, did put in use as soon as conveniently they might, mean-while supplying the Church even with the Sale of their Lands and Possessions : What the Law of the Land most Religiously commands, threatning most severe Punishment unto those that fail ; What is not only lawful in it self, but also expedient for you (for a payment of greater Eqnity you cannot devise,) That judge you, if you may not part with, with a safe conscience, viz. without fear of displeasing God in so doing.

While you tarry for further satisfaction (if you desire any) by an impartial Reading of other learned mens Works, either set forth already, or to be set forth hereafter purposely for your use, and to your capacity ; I think you can do no less than suffer your Tyths to be had from you in quietness, out of Tenderness, First, to the word of God, of whose Sentence in this

I have published this little Treat, on purpose to beg this Condescension at Learned Mens hands. And I beseech you, shew not your selves so desperate, as to render their Labour lost that shall travel to do you good.

The gain saying of Tyth is

this case you must needs be doubtful at the least : Secondly, of oppressing the general and constant practice of the Christian world for the space of fourteen hundred years and upwards : and thirdly, of controuling the Law of the Land wherein you live, the resisting whereof is Self-damnation, *Rom. 13. 2.* And yet indeed to watch you leading Home your Corn, is both unseemly, and difficult ; and then to take what you do not lay out, is not proper to be done.

Be persuaded to lay out your Tyths as others do, that so among your Neighbours. you may make way for that Blessing to light upon us, which God hath promised unto those that Honour him with their substance, *Prov. 30. 10.*

I think you not so stupid, as not to take notice of the justness of God's providence in these late years, altering greatly both the Weather, and the Fruits of the Earth, from what they were wont to be. This is occasion'd by our Mis-doings, among the which, I think no Man will reckon Tyth-paying, it being not only justifiable in it self, but also Commendable, and withall, of a longer standing, than that any such thing may be laid to its charge. What may be thought of the contrary, *viz.* Gain-saying of Tyth, a Novelty, and that a dangerous

indeed but an Out-work of your Sect : yet is it the main thing that you trust unto ; as being both an In-let to the Greedy and Prophane to come in unto you ; and also an Outlet of Obliquies and prophane Speeches, to the disparagement of Religion and Piety.

Julian the Apostate, could not devise a better Method to destroy Christianity, than by taking away the Maintenance of the Ministry.

You'll say, far be it from you to seek the destruction of Christianity : I say so too ; yea, so far as not to endeavour any such thing, the just and plain consequence whereof, may impair, or but occasion any the least detriment unto it. Nevertheless, it is reported of your Teachers, that they make but light even of the person of Christ himself : What then do they make of his Office, and what wonder is it that they teach you, to cast off his Institutions, *viz.* his Word, Sacraments, Ministry, &c. making use of you to cry Hirelings against us ; whilst they privily (as *St. Peter* saith) and I presume, unawares to one

many of you, do bring in damnable Heresies, denying even the Lord that bought them, 2 Pet. 2. 1. O let them not under pretence of the power of Christ within you, perswade you to make light of the Person of Christ without you, it is Christ without you that hath bought you. Honour him as ye ought, and despise his Institutions if you can.

one too, I leave to you to consider. *My Son, fear thou the Lord, and the King, and meddle not with those that are given to change,* Prov. 24. 21, 22. And yet, what you would have, may not properly be said to be a change; for a change is of something into something, or of one thing for another.

But what you would have, (if you know what it is) is a bringing of something into nothing.

If you will not be concern'd in these Words of *Solomon*, your Design aiming further than a change; be pleas'd to hearken to *St. Paul*, bidding you to *study to be quiet*, and to *do your own business*; which I think not to be that either of Church or State.

Upon condition you study to be quiet in such manner, that King and Kingdom, Church and State, Land and Nation, may be in quiet for you, I bid you heartily to Farewel.



F I N I S.